

BLITZ: Exercise tests joint service interoperability

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for contribution in the development of the Navy Area TBMD and Navy Theater Wide TBMD capabilities. The Navy Area TBMD capability will be the first tactical TBMD capability deployed aboard AEGIS destroyers and cruisers.

These events exercised missile defense training and doctrine, validated the Navy's ability to collect TBM tracking data using shipboard radar suites, and demonstrated the ability of AEGIS ships to pass TBM data via JTIDS LINK 16, a major digital communications mode.

A key to the test was software called Linebacker, which enables data collection, tracking and analysis and subsequent distribution to participating units. Linebacker is installed on the guided missile cruisers, USS Laek Erie (CG 70) and USS Port Royal (CG 73). Separately, USS Shiloh (CG 67) tracked threat representative targets with SPY-1 radar, and communicated these tracks to other units via JTIDS link.

The Linebacker designation has been given to Lake Erie and Port Royal because of developmental computer program upgrades that allow the ship to detect, track and, when missiles become available, engage applicable theater ballistic missiles.

Lake Erie and Port Royal have served as operational units for the development of doctrine and training, in addition to performance validation of the Navy Area TBMD Program.

Shiloh, with the prototype Area Air Defense Commander (AADC) system installed, was used to display and record the missile events throughout the exercise.

"This was a very important exercise, with positive results, at a very important facility," he added.

Rear Adm. Kathleen K. Paige, Deputy Director, Program Executive Officer Theater Surface Combatants (PEO TSC) added, "This was a tremendous training and engineering exercise. We collected a lot of data. The Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) pulled off this event of unprecedented complexity."

Marine Corps participation in Pacific Blitz June 6 included the acquisition and tracking of both a surrogate cruise missile and a TBM-like missile by their TPS-59(V)3 radar.

Target information was exchanged by the use of the JTIDS terminal in the Marine's Air Defense Communications Platform (ADCP).

The Ballistic Missile Defense Organization and the Navy are co-sponsors in the development of a Navy TBMD capability. Program Executive Officer for Theater Surface Combatants manages the Navy's Area and NTW TBMD programs. Lockheed Martin Naval Electronics and Surveillance Systems (NE&SS) in Moorestown, New Jersey, is the prime contractor for the AEGIS Weapon System (AWS) and the LINEBACKER computer program upgrades.



Program Executive Office, Theater Surface Combatants photo

A Terrier Missile Target (TMT) launches from the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) Barking Sands, Kauai, as part of Pacific Blitz, June 8. PACBLITZ is part of the Navy's Theatre Ballistic Missile Defense development. This was the first exercise involving simultaneous tracking of multiple Theater Ballistic Missile Defense (TBMD) targets.

Navy Reserves take active role in RIMPAC 2000

By JO2 Oscar A. Troncoso
RIMPAC 2000 COMMAND INFORMATION BUREAU

They come from all corners of our country. One supervises 38 correctional officers and 1,300 inmates at a maximum-security prison in Alabama. Another is a native New Yorker who works as a chemist in Connecticut. A third is a consulting electrical engineer from the state of Washington. These three, along with more than 500 others naval reservists, come to the Hawaiian Islands for one reason: RIMPAC 2000.

RIMPAC 2000 not only brings together reservists from all over the American mainland, but it also joins maritime forces from Australia, Canada, Chile, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States. More than 50 ships, 200 aircraft and 22,000 Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Soldiers, and Coastguardsmen participated in RIMPAC training operations. This year's exercise was the seventeenth in a series of Rim of the Pacific exercises conducted periodically since 1971.

Yeoman 2nd Class Patrice Richie of Birmingham, Alabama, is a Lieutenant in the Department of Corrections at a maximum-se-

curity facility in nearby Springville. Petty Officer Richie feels a connection to other reservists who participate in RIMPAC 2000.

"It's nice to see how a group of people from other areas of the world can come together to complete a specific exercise. You also meet people from other areas of the country and form a certain bond - all in two weeks," said Richie, who drills with the SACLANT Det. 109 unit in Birmingham, Ala.

Chief Electronics Technician Dave Amos, a consulting electrical engineer from Vancouver, Washington. He believes the RIMPAC 2000 multi-national training exercise was a good way for reservists to find out how prepared they are to be a full time sailor.

"We get a better understanding of how the Navy operates, and what goes on the active side. The Navy expects to get highly trained individuals that do their part to help the Navy carry out its mission. Being part of the RIMPAC 2000 exercise has been valuable. It's the only way we can find out how strong we are as reservists. You can't be prepared enough," said Amos, who drills with COMSUBPAC Det. 122 in Portland, Oregon.

The challenge of being part of an exercise of

the magnitude of RIMPAC 2000 interested Information Systems Technician 1st Class Eric Poundstone of Emmet, Idaho. His two weeks in Hawaii included time aboard USS Coronado (AGF 11). The commander of the Third Fleet, Vice Admiral Dennis V. McGinn, is embarked on Coronado.

"I was especially interested coming aboard the flagship. I've never done that before. Plus, the information technology field is ever-changing and this will be a good learning experience. If I'm ever recalled (to active duty status), I'll be able to step right in," said Poundstone, who drills with the NRCG-55 unit out of the reserve center in Boise.

Yeoman 3rd Class Sean Doran, a native of New York City who works as a chemist in Bethel, Connecticut, traveled a long way to make RIMPAC 2000 his first Active Duty Training experience.

"It's been a very good experience. Just the whole concept of RIMPAC, bringing these nations together has been great. Everybody has been friendly and very willing to teach you new things. I know the Navy is based on rank but everybody is willing to treat you as a person first," said Doran, a reservist attached to the

NSSF Det. 902 unit in New London, Connecticut.

Chief Yeoman Nancy E. Naramore, the Reserve Liaison Office Administrative Supervisor for CINCPACFLT at Pearl Harbor, understands the importance of RIMPAC 2000 for reservists on active duty.

"They are simulating what you actually do in the active Navy. I'm glad to see reservists participate in this. It's been very positive for the reserve force, and it has given them presence and hands-on training," said Naramore.

For Photographer's Mate 1st Class Robin S. Nelson, a letter carrier for the postal service in Minneapolis, coming to RIMPAC is a labor of love.

"It's very gratifying and demanding. I like coming here because I get to implement what I already know. It's an exercise where I get a chance to use my skills. There's a lot of work to be done in an exhaustive but good way. It's my second RIMPAC, and I'd like to continue to come to every RIMPAC," said the native of Red Wing, Minnesota, who drills with the CVNW 0596 reserve unit at the Naval Air Reserve Center in Minneapolis.

Multinational force keeps control of sea lanes during RIMPAC 2000

By JOC Tom Berryman
RIMPAC 2000 COMMAND INFORMATION BUREAU

There is a small group of Sailors from four different countries who are making sure that the more than 50 ships, 200 aircraft and approximately 22,000 Sailors, airmen, Marines and coastguardsmen of the United States, Canada, Australia, Chile, Republic of Korea, Great Britain, and Japanese navies stress safety while sharing the seas around the Hawaiian Islands during RIMPAC 2000. The exercise officially started May 30.

The humanitarian exercise "Strong Angel" is one of the challenges facing this team headed by Capt. Real Thibault, Naval Control of Shipping (NCS) commanding officer. Thibault is a 30-year veteran of Canadian Forces Naval

Reserve, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada. He's in charge of 20 American officers, four Canadians, two Australians, and one from Chile who make up the NCS.

"Strong Angel" involves military, government and non-government organizations coming together on the big island of Hawaii to train in refugee management techniques, skills and technology in a no-frills environment. The team includes participants in Tacoma, Wash.; Long Beach, Calif.; as well as the Hawaiian Islands. But it is in Tacoma and Long Beach that the long-range detection of merchant ships begins, with the integration of the sea-lanes taking place around Hawaii.

The safety challenge is the tremendous responsibility this team has, which is to identify merchant shipping travelling around and across the exercise area and make sure they

don't run into or interfere with the military ships.

"It's a two-way street," said Thibault. "We don't want to delay the merchant ships or interrupt naval operations. It's better for both groups. We have to be accurate and timely, otherwise more resources, including fuel and time, have to be used to find out where that merchant ship is located and where it is headed."

Nearly all members are Reservists, Thibault explained. "It's an ideal task for Reserves. It is not something needed all the time, but, when needed, Reserves support it."


What makes the participation in this RIMPAC unique from previous exercises is that NCS teams have people at all levels of the operation — tactical, operations and the task force levels.

Thibault says it is at the tactical level where

his people acquire the merchant ships, with operations making sure there is no conflict with Navy ships. It is at the task force level where the strategic overview is provided to the Task Force Commander, who takes the information provided to see whether changes have to be made or planning evaluated to determine whether there is a need to escort or protect merchant vessels.

"We constantly must be aware and stay current on issues, providing advice to superiors," said Thibault. "I really enjoy what I do. If I do nothing else in my career, I know I have had the opportunity to reach this level of involvement. Another reward has been seeing how other people and other countries perceive the need for what we provide." For more information about RIMPAC 2000, go to <http://www.cpf.navy.mil/rimpac2000>.


Republic of South Korea's Navy participates in multi-national goodwill sporting events



Official Republic of Korea Navy photo

The Republic of South Korea's Navy participated in a multi-cultural sports event. South Korea competed against Australia, Canada, Chile and U.S. Navy's in a variety of goodwill games recently. South Korea won first place in tennis doubles and second place in the single tournament.

USS Reuben James improves quality of life onboard ship



By Lt. j.g. Jose O. Fikes
USS REUBEN JAMES

RECENTLY the Chief Petty Officer's mess aboard USS Reuben James (FFG 57) devised an innovative plan to improve the overall quality of life for their shipmates.

Master Chief Machinist's Mate (SW) Kuhn, Command Master Chief, developed and executed a plan to install washers and dryers in the ship's three berthing compartments.

This specific action has been well received by every Sailor onboard.

Due to the design of the Oliver Hazard Perry class ship it was difficult to make this plan come to fruition. However, the chief petty officer's mess pooled their technical skills and presented a clear and concise method by which to make this happen.

The ship's Morale Welfare and Recreation committee, led by Chief Gunner's Mate(SW) Vogelmier, agreed to fund the cost of three stackable washer and dryers, and the crew put in the extra time to meet the installation goals.

The result has been dramatic, "It's easier for the crew to get our personal laundry done. It's also a lot less expensive. Our morale and quality of life have definitely increased," says Seaman Justin Kolena (Grand Junction, CO).

Under normal circumstances Sailors are limited to shore facilities for non-uniform laundry services.

However, Reuben James Sailors can finally make themselves at home and enjoy their new laundromat.

Sailors at sea are the Navy's most valuable asset and their comfort is a constant priority on the FIGHTIN' 57 (FFG 57).